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because the importance that community college play in economic development and education of our citizens, especially in our rural areas. I have always espoused that education is a great equalizer. No matter what your social, ethnic, or economic background is, if you get a good education, whether it's in the trades or through colleges, with effort on your part, you can do anything anyone else can do. In South Sioux City, we have a large minority population. In fact, 52 percent of the children in our school district is of...are of Hispanic origin. Many of them are first generation. And those people are up there to support the...they work very hard at these packing houses to support their families. But they also value the...realize the value of an education. By having a community college, in cooperation with Wayne State College, in our community, it's going to afford them an opportunity to get this education, because it's close to home, and it's affordable. If it's too far away from home and more expensive, most of them will never get to further their education. So I think it's very, very important that this bill goes through, that this campus can be completed. And northeast Nebraska, again, is not in competition with any other of the community colleges. I think they're all in favor of this bill. That was all taken care of prior to today. And in our area, in South Sioux City and northeast Nebraska, that's where the population growth is. In a lot of the smaller communities to the west there's declining population. So they'll be able to serve more of the population. And also, we have people right across the river in Iowa who will be coming over to Nebraska to get their education. As...they did some research here a few years ago, and this one researcher said, the study indicated that every \$1 of state or local tax dollars invested in Nebraska's community colleges will return \$17.73 in increased earnings and social savings over the next 35 years. And more than 90 percent of community college graduates stay in Nebraska, an extraordinary finding. In fact, it's unmatched by any other higher education institution. The...last year, we tried to bring a very viable company into our area, northeast Nebraska. And having Northeast Nebraska College campus near the facility was a great plus in this package to attract them. In fact, the state of Iowa had to go into a special session and enhance their incentive plan to keep Blue Bunny in their state. We have indicated work ethics in